Pictorial warning on tobacco products

2699. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory in European countries to print pictorial warning of skull and cross bones on the boxes of cigars which are full of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether such mandatory warning had been printed;

(c) the number of deaths due to lung cancer or lung diseases recorded in various Government and private hospitals in the country due to beedi smoking during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise; and

(d) the number of deaths due to lung cancer or lung diseases of non-beedi smokers, having been recorded in various Government and private hospitals in the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, it is not mandatory in European countries to print pictorial warning of skull and cross bones on the boxes of cigars, which are full of tobacco.

(c) and (d) There are studies to indicate that tobacco smoking in any form increases the incidence of respiratory diseases including Cancer.

The data regarding number of death due to beedi smoking is however not being maintained.

De-recognition of medical course

†2700. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the super specialization course of M.Ch. in neuro-surgery is being discontinued now from here Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College situated in Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether his Ministry has received any letter requesting to continue that course in the said college; and,

(d) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) MCI conducted the inspection of Shree Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College, Cuttack, Orissa in October, 2006 and did not recommend for recognition of M.Ch. (Neuro-surgery) qualification in view of certain deficiencies in terms of teaching faculty, OPD attendance and clinical material etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This Ministry will take necessary action in due course as per procedure stipulated in Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 on receipt of MCI report on compliance on rectification of deficiencies submitted by the said college.

Bogus SC/ST certificates

2701. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of SC/ST bogus caste certificate cases in various departments of his Ministry as on 31st March, 2007;

(b) in how many cases departmental proceedings have been started against the concerned employees from the above numbers;

(c) in how many cases the matter is pending before various courts; and

(d) what are the action plan by his Ministry to finalise all the above cases and to fill up the vacancies by appropriate candidates belonging to SC and ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Centres of excellence for treatment of AIDS affected children

2702. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched seven state-of-art centres of excellence in the country for treatment of AIDS affected children;

(b) if so, the details thereof, city-wise and location-wise; and

(c) what is the role of such centres to fight against AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Seven Regional Paediatric ART centres are being established at the following sites:

1. Kalavati Saran Children Hospital, New Delhi
2. Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bangalore, Karnataka
3. Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad (AP)
4. Institute of Child Health, Chennai (TN)
5. Sion Hospital, Mumbai (Maharashtra)
6. Kolkata Medical College, Kolkata (WB)
7. Jawahar Lal Nehru Hospital, Imphal (Manipur)